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## MONTANA SCHOOL Deaf & Blind

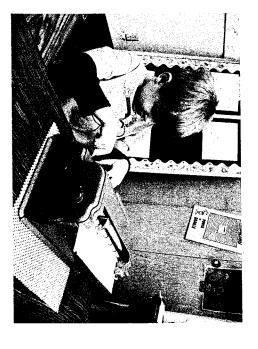
Presentation for the

#### Senate Finance and Claims Committee

March 19, 2011 Helena, Montana







#### Deaf and blind children must be ready to enter school with peer equivalent skills

Education Services

•MSDB Family
Advisor Program
•Collaborative partnerships with
Part C Home-based services

#### Appropriate Medical Interventions

 Collaboration, training and support for the medical community

Collaboration with Hearing Conservation Program staff
 MSDB audiology services

MSDB consultant services for functional vision assessments

## Early Identification and Educational Intervention

·Support for the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening program and Loss to Follow-up activities Support and training for education agencies and community based service providers Collaboration with local Child Find activities

Giving kids the building blocks to independence

### access to curriculum, instruction and the school community Deaf and blind children must have meaningful

Support Services

•Orientation/
mobility, Braille,
interpreters, school

counselors, technology, access to extra curricular activities

#### Highly Qualified Teachers and Support Specialists

Special education teachers in the local school districts and MSDB teachers trained to understand and meet the unique communication and developmental needs of deaf and blind children
 System of personnel development
 Administrative support

Competitive compensation to recruit and retain qualified staff

# Access to Communication in a "Language Rich Environment"

 Communication modality based on appropriate assessment and student needs Accommodations and technology to support Braille, speech, or sign language ·Staff and peers that can communicate with the student using the child's preferred mode of communication

## High school students must have transition training to develop independence, communication, and vocational skills

Support
Services
Job coaches,

technology and rehabilitation teachers, career and guidance counselors, audiology, orientation/mobility, physical therapy

### **Skill Building and Transition Training**

Expanded Core Curriculum
Independent living,
Career exploration and planning,
Employability and work experience
College preparation
Self-advocacy

#### **Collaborative Program Planning**

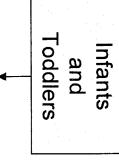
 Transition planning and services with Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind and Low Vision Services Partnerships with employers and service providers in the local community Supportive relationships with parents and school districts

## **MSDB** Continuum of Services

0 - 2 years

3 – 18 years

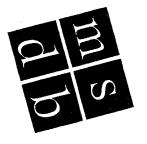
19-22 years



- Screening referrals Follow up to Universal Newborn Hearing

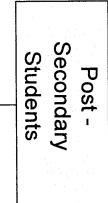
Family advisor services

- medical community technical assistance to Consultation and families, Part C, and the
- intervention curriculum for early providers to utilize special Training for service



Preschool, Elementary and **High School Students** 

- preschool, elementary and high school students at MSDB School based education and evaluation services for
- Great Falls area Residential services for students who live outside the
- families and local school districts through outreach Consultation, technical assistance, and training for
- camps for students, parents, and school staff Family Learning and Enrichment Weekends and Summer
- teachers and interpreters Professional resources and training materials for parents.
- visual impairments Equipment loans and technical assistance to students with
- Materials Access Center Facilitation of service from the National Instructional
- Management of state accounts and purchases from the American Printing House for the Blind

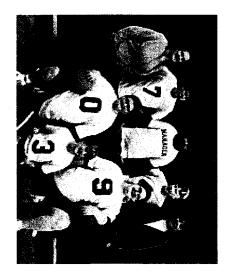


- and vocational skills independence, communication, Transition training to develop
- outreach school districts through assistance to families and local Consultation and technical
- support students transitioning to work or college Vocational Rehabilitation to Low Vision Services and Collaboration with Blind and

MSDB provides more than academics. Our school community supports unique ways of communicating and learning so that the whole child is well prepared for a productive, independent and satisfying life.

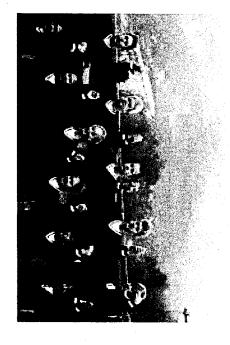














"Education, Communication and Independence for Life"